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New definition of downtown districts may benefit Warren residents

LANSING – The Senate Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee on Wednesday favorably reported legislation to amend the downtown development authority act's definition of "downtown district," said Chairman Alan Sanborn.

The legislation was introduced to allow the city of Warren to have one downtown development authority located on both sides of Van Dyke Road. The road is segmented by the city of Centerline, thereby creating two separate and distinct geographic areas.

"Current law prohibits cities, villages and townships from having more than one designated 'downtown district' area," said Sanborn, R-Richmond Township. "Warren residents and businesses should benefit from the downtown development authority's opportunities for economic growth and public improvement. They should not be hamstrung by a technicality."

House Bill 4344 unanimously passed the House of Representatives.

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